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Editorials—

Scientist Shortage

Allen W. Dulles, head of the Central Intelligence Agency, is authority for the statement that at the current rate the United States will graduate 900,000 engineers and scientists in the present decade, compared with 1,200,000 graduating in the meantime in Soviet Russia.

Under Russian regimentation, the military and the heavy industries will get first call, of course. There will be no "dissipation" of such trained men in the consumer goods industries, to the detriment of the military and its allied industrial structure.

At the recent nation-wide convention of chemists held on the University of Minnesota campus, there were some complaints about our educational emphasis—or at least some mourning of the preference shown for "easy" subjects in contrast with science and mathematics. The head of a leading chemical firm says that last year 6,000 new science teachers were needed in this country. Yet only 4,000 were graduated, and only about half of them went into teaching. There were openings for between 35,000 and 40,000 engineers in this country this year, but only 26,000 were graduated.

This country has made world-pacing gains in science and technology. In what is properly labeled the "atomic era," we certainly can't afford to fall behind in scientific training of the rising generation.

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